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Deputy County Attorney attymeo@cochise.az.gov Attorney for the State of Arizona

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

### IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF COCHISE

STATE OF ARIZONA,	) Case No. CR201800385		
Plaintiff,	<ul><li>JUDGE WALLACE R. HOGGATT</li><li>DIVISION THREE</li></ul>		
vs.	)		
LUIS LAURO SIQUEIROS-MEDINA,	) REPLY IN SUPPORT OF STATE'S ) MOTION FOR ENTRY OF		
Defendant.	) PROTECTIVE ORDER		
	)		

COMES NOW the State of Arizona, through the Cochise County Attorney, BRIAN M. McINTYRE, and SARA V. RANSOM, his Deputy, hereby submits its reply in support of entry of the Protective Order submitted to the Court with the State's Motion pursuant to Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure 15.4 and 15.5.

Defendant's response contains inaccurate statements regarding communications between counsel as well as regarding the Protective Order itself, and its suggested alternative presents a far more onerous and unworkable approach to discovery in this matter. The State's proposed Protective Order has been entered in numerous other

matters locally, particularly sex cases which present heightened privacy concerns for the benefit of both the victim and Defendant, and is appropriate in light of the facts and circumstances of this case.

The proposed Protective Order submitted by the State complies with Arizona rules and does not impose any undue burdens upon the Defendant. The "Agreement to be Bound" is similar to agreements that defense counsel in this County already employ with experts and other third parties, so the "parade of horribles" hypothesized by Defendant are red herrings. Defendant's claims of due process and confrontation clause violations are inapplicable since the Protective Order is aimed at *facilitating* Defendant's pre-trial access to materials he may need to support his defense. Because it actually expedites disclosures, the Protective Order supports Defendant's due process and confrontation rights, it does not erect any barriers to them. Indeed, Defendant has suggested a competing form of Protective Order, thus implicitly acknowledging that such orders do not run afoul of Defendant's constitutional rights.

Under substantially similar circumstances, Courts in Arizona have entered Protective Orders with provisions like those contained within the State's proposed Protective Order. See, e.g., Cervantes v. Cates, 206 Ariz. 178, 185, 76 P.3d 449, 456 (Ct.

Defendant's claim that the State has run afoul of Arizona Supreme Court Rule 111(c) by noting to this court that other substantially similar or identical orders have been entered locally is in error. The State does not cite these orders to assert any precedential or binding effect, but instead alerts the Court to ensure it is aware of the prevalence of these orders and the risk of inconsistent rulings, particularly as Defendant is raising the same exact arguments that were rejected by Judge Conlogue in State v. Chasse, CR201800466. This form of order was entered via stipulation of counsel in at least the following Cochise County criminal matters: State v. Mendez, CR201600361 (luring), State v. Savage, CR201700100 (sex with minor); State v. Leizza Adams, CR201700425 (child abuse--sex), State v. Leon, CR201700655 (rape). A similar form of order was also entered over objection of defense counsel by this Court in State v. Steel, CR201600843 (murder).

App. 2003)<sup>2</sup> ("if there is any concern about disposition of the materials provided, a protective order limiting disclosure to counsel, prohibiting any further copying, and requiring defense counsel's agents to use the materials solely for the case and to return them to the State should be sufficient."). The State's proposed Protective Order is warranted by the circumstances of this matter, authorized by the Arizona Rules of Criminal and Civil Procedure, and affirmed by Arizona case law. It should be entered.

## A. Defendant Misleads The Court Regarding Counsels' Communications and Disclosure by the State to Date.

Defendant's own attachments reveal that Defendant asked the State to delay filing its Motion. See Defendant's Response at Appendix 4 (wherein counsel for Defendant asks the State on June 11 to avoid filing a motion for protective order until such time as the parties could have a hearing in July.) When defense counsel was 'ready,' the State noted that it was awaiting a ruling from Judge Conlogue on a form of protective order offered by the State in a separately-pending, yet similar matter. Counsel for Defendant agreed that the State's decision to await Judge Conlogue's decision before proceeding in this matter on a similar protective order "makes sense." See July 6, 2018 email from X. Orozco to S. Ransom, attached as Exhibit 1. The State filed its Motion in this case within a few days of receipt of the order from Judge Conlogue, which entered a slightly modified version of the State's proposed Protective Order. The version of Protective Order evaluated and entered by Judge Conlogue is now pending before this Court for its consideration.

Despite her agreement to the delays, counsel for Defendant now complains to the Court that the State was dilatory in filing its Motion. Counsel is the one who requested

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Cervantes v. Cates, 206 Ariz. 178, 185, 76 P.3d 449, 456 (Ct. App. 2003), superseded on other grounds by Ariz. R. Crim. P. 15(1)(j) as stated in State ex rel. Montgomery v. Padilla, 2017 WL 4784603, at \*2 (Ariz. Ct. App. Oct. 24, 2017), review denied (May 8, 2018)

and assented to the delays, and cannot now benefit from an alleged discovery issue that counsel invited. *Accord State v. Logan*, 200 Ariz. 564, 565–66, 30 P.3d 631, 632–33 (2001) ("as we repeatedly have held, we will not find reversible error when the party complaining of it invited the error.").

Defendant also claims that the State is withholding documents that are not confidential or private in nature. Specifically, Defendant's counsel claims that "519 photos, 3 digital images, or 10 audio files" and 2 video, all of which are contained on State's Disclosure Disk #65, are not confidential but are being improperly withheld by the State. It is unclear how defendant's counsel can be so certain that this information is not confidential if she has not seen it. Regardless, rather than speaking with counsel for the State to arrange for further analysis and copying of discoverable portions of the disk, Defendant asserted this "gotcha" claim of withholding non-confidential information in this Response and a contemporaneously-filed motion for release. Frankly, the State did not even know that Defendant's counsel had not already obtained this information—which was identified in the State's First Supplemental Disclosure Statement and made available on *June 8, 2018*—until reading the Response.

The State agrees that certain of the 519 photos, most of which were taken during the course of a search warrant, all 3 of the digital images, and certain of the 10 audio, are discoverable. As noted, those items have been available to Defendant since the State disclosed them in early June. The items were all put on the same disk as the forensic interviews, however, so the disk was noted as containing confidential information in the State's disclosure. Had counsel for Defendant simply noted to counsel for the State that she believed some items on Disk 65 were not confidential and she wished to have staff come and copy those items, she would have had them months ago. Instead, she remained silent and now attempts to use this issue to gain leverage before the Court.

### B. Good Cause Exists to Enter the State's Proposed Protective Order.

There does not seem to be a dispute that certain of the information in this case, such as the forensic interviews and images depicting or documents discussing the minor victims, are confidential. Where, as here, the State wishes to restrict disclosure, it may apply for a protective order. See, e.g., Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure 15.5. Indeed, "[t]he rules recognize that the prosecutor's disclosure obligations may be qualified by court order under Rule 15.5 or by Rule 39(b), which concerns victims' rights. See Ariz. R. Crim. P. 15.1(a), (b). Under Rule 15.5(b), the court may authorize a party to excise extraneous information from a document that contains information subject to disclosure." State ex rel. Montgomery v. Chavez ex rel. Cty. of Maricopa, 234 Ariz. 255, 256, 321 P.3d 420, 421 (2014). Additionally, "Rule 39(b) requires courts to construe the rules 'to preserve and protect a victim's rights to justice and due process,' and then specifies various rights that victims 'shall have and be entitled to assert." Id. at 256, ¶ 8, 321 P.3d at 421.

With these principles in mind, the Court has broad discretion to regulate disclosure. State v. McMurtrey, 136 Ariz. 93, 97, 664 P.2d 637, 641 (1983) (citing additional authorities); Ariz. R. Crim. P. 15.5(a), cmt. ("[t]he court is given broad discretion to limit discovery required by this rule whenever it is shown a risk of harm resulting from a specific disclosure"). Upon the moving party's showing of "good cause" for the protective order, the Court may "deny or regulate disclosures when it finds: (1) That the disclosure would result in a risk of harm outweighing any usefulness of the disclosure to any party; and, (2) That the risk cannot be eliminated by a less substantial restriction of discovery rights." Cervantes, 206 Ariz. at 182, 76 P.3d at 453 (emphasis supplied in original); see also State ex rel. Montgomery, 234 Ariz. at 256, 321 P.3d at 421 ("The court, upon the motion of any party showing good cause, may also limit or prevent

disclosure of required information if the risk of harm outweighs the usefulness of the disclosure and the risk cannot otherwise be eliminated."). As further detailed herein, the State's Motion and the proposed Protective Order satisfy these requirements.

### 1. The State seeks the Protective Order to Guard Against Numerous Harms.

When making the two-part determination, the Court may find that "good cause" exists to restrict, deny or allow redactions of disclosures where it finds there is, for example, "potential for harm to a witness or a party or interference with or disruption of ongoing police investigations." *Id.* Here, the State's Motion identified several grounds for seeking the protective order, including: (1) privacy rights and potential intimidation of the victim in this case, a young boy who was sexually victimized, (2) the early and ongoing nature of the State's investigation, which can be tainted by press or social media, (3) the fact that neither party has had a full opportunity to review all the information in the case because the electronic devices found in Defendant's home are not in a readable format at this time, and (4) the fact that Rule 15.4(d) applies to officers of the court, not the Defendant, third parties or others that could use the information for purposes beyond the restrictions of the Rules. *See* State's Motion, p. 2 and fn. 1.

The proposed Protective Order does not restrict access to the information pertinent to the State's case and Defendant's potential defenses. To the contrary, it establishes a procedure to ensure expedited access to information in exchange for confirmation that Defendant's attorney will do what she has represented to be her intent—ensure that the information is used only for the development of the defense in this case. As noted in its Motion (at p. 2), the State does not question defense counsel's commitment to the limitation imposed upon her as an officer of the Court, but is concerned based uponj personal experiences with counsel for Defendant regarding what she understands to be appropriate use of the information, and is further concerned what may transpire if

Where, as is the case here, the State has detailed the many potential harms attendant to unrestricted disclosures, the Arizona Court of Appeals has noted that the appropriate response from a trial court is "an order restricting access to the copies to [Defendant], his attorney and his attorneys' agents for defense preparation, having the State rather than the defense make the copies, precluding further copying and requiring the copies be returned to the State at the conclusion of the trial or appeal ...[.]" Cervantes, 206 Ariz. at 183–84, 76 P.3d at 454–55. The State's form of order accomplishes these appropriate restrictions.

### 2. The Protective Order is less restrictive than redacting or withholding information.

In this case, the State must obtain and review voluminous sensitive information, including, but not limited to, the electronic information on the multitude of devices and DVR recording devices located in Defendant's home, medical records of the victim, the forensic interview of the victim, and body cam footage from a variety of officers involved in investigating the crimes alleged against Defendant. The proposed Protective Order, which expedites a Defendant's access to information that may be used in his defense while also protecting the interests of victim and the State's on-going investigation, thus strikes the appropriate balance of competing interests "allowing both parties restricted use of the information while maintaining the victim's right 'to be treated with fairness, respect, and dignity, and to be free from intimidation, harassment, or abuse,

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throughout the criminal justice process.' Ariz. Const. art. II, § 2.1(A)(1)." State ex rel. Montgomery, 234 Ariz. at 258, 321 P.3d at 423.

The State's Protective Order is also the least restrictive means of moving pre-trial discovery forward, as it allows the State to provide information to Defense counsel without redactions under protection of the Protective Order, with the understanding that the parties will re-visit the items in advance of trial to address any potential disagreements over removing or altering the "confidential" designation to allow for use at trial.

For example, forensic interviews, forensic images of electronic device hard drives, or body cam footage may be provided to counsel for the defense pursuant to the State's Protective Order to protect the victims, witnesses, or even the Defendant. It may be that the parties ultimately redact certain portions from the videos before trial, but having the Protective Order in place allows the State to provide the information without first completing the heavy administrative burden of pouring over hours of audio and video to complete redactions.

Instead, the State has a court order requiring Defendant, Defendant's counsel, and any others who "agree to be bound" before gaining access to the information that the materials will be used narrowly for the purposes of the defense. As currently written, the Rules of Criminal and Civil Procedure do not provide those assurances to the State. which results in significant burdens and delays in discovery while the State reviews and edits voluminous amounts of potentially relevant, and thus discoverable, data that must be reviewed and redacted pursuant to the State's competing obligations to victims, confidential informants, minors, or other sensitive witnesses.

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# The State's Form of Protective Order Does Not Erect Undue on Counsel or the Defendant Defendant Does Not Establish Burden in securing Agreements to Be Bound. **Burdens Upon Counsel or the Defendant**

### 1. <u>Defendant Does Not Establish Burden in securing Agreements to Be Bound.</u>

Counsel for the Defendant claims the Protective Order interferes with her ability to consult with experts or other third parties to assist her in her investigation and preparation of a defense because they would have to sign a single-page "Agreement to be Bound" by the Protective Order before reviewing "Confidential" materials.

Defendant does not explain how having an expert or other third parties sign the "Agreement to be Bound" is onerous. The single-page "Agreement to be Bound" simply ensures the third party receiving the information will abide by this Court's Protective Order, and further abide by what Defense counsel claims to be her singular purpose—use of the information exclusively to mount a defense for Defendant. Counsel for the Defendant has not demonstrated that securing signatures on an Agreement to be Bound is burdensome or impossible to accomplish. To the contrary, Cochise County Legal Defender Joel Larson has previously indicated during oral argument to this Court on another matter that his office employs a similar agreement to be bound with its own experts. The use of "agreements to be bound" are not foreign concepts to the defense bar. and has apparently been successfully applied for some time without undue burden to counsel.

Additionally, sections 2.3 and 7.2 provide that no "Agreement to be Bound" is required before the receiving counsel may provide designated materials to: (1) other attorneys or staff of Defendant's office, (2) the court and its personnel, (3) the author of the document that is the subject of the designation, and (4) any custodian or person who previously possessed or knew the information in the document.

## 2. <u>The Order Prohibits Obstructionist Conduct and Preserves the Court's Authority Regarding Discovery.</u>

Counsel for the State has had several disappointing encounters with counsel for the Defendant related to discovery agreements. The Protective Order proposed by the State alleviates the State's concerns regarding communications issues between counsel and promote clarity as to all parties obligations.

The Protective Order requires counsel for each party to identify documents she or he deems to be "Confidential," and the attorneys are ordered by the Court to exercise "restraint" and "care" in designating materials. *See* Protective Order at Section 5.1. To further avoid over-broad or obstructionist use of the Protective Order, the definition of "Confidential" is restricted to sensitive, private items that are protected by the rules or statutes. *See* "Confidential" definition, Section 2.2 of Protective Order.

To further guard against abusive practices and address disagreements of counsel without burdening the Court, the order requires opposing counsel to raise an objection and meet and confer to resolve the dispute if he or she disagrees with a "Confidential" designation. Such objection can be made by the non-designating party "at any time." See Protective Order, Section 6.1. If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute, then the Court is consulted. Id. at Sections 6.2-6.3. Additionally, at any time, parties may agree to remove the confidentiality designation or apply to the Court to remove the confidentiality designations. Id. at, for example, Section 4 (noting that the protections of the Protective Order remain in effect "until a Designating Party agrees otherwise in writing or a court order otherwise directs"), Section 6.1 ("Any party or non-party may challenge a designation of confidentiality at any time."), Section 7.2 ("Unless otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party...").

The Protective Order thus accomplishes the legitimate purposes acknowledged by Arizona authorities that have evaluated protective order issues pursuant to Rule 15.5,

Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure. See McMurtrey, 136 Ariz. at 97, 664 P.2d at 641 (Upholding the trial court's order redacting witness addresses where "[a]t the hearing ... the evidence indicated that the five witnesses whose names were withheld all expressed fear at having to testify against appellant and requested that their addresses be withheld."); Cervantes, 206 Ariz. at 186, 76 P.3d at 457; State ex rel. Montgomery, 234 Ariz. at 258, ¶ 21, 321 P.3d at 423 ¶ 21 ("to the extent that disclosing a victim's birth date may create a risk of harassment or other harm, we reiterate that the existing rules allow a prosecutor to seek a court order denying or limiting disclosures otherwise required by Rule 15.1.").

## 3. The Protective Order's Sealing Standards are Enforceable and The Protective Order Does Not Create Statute of Limitations Issues.

Defendant's claim that designation of documents as confidential creates some issue with the Statute of Limitations or that Cochise County cannot enforce its procedure for sealing documents are in error. First, the obligations of the protective order are addressed by the return of materials to the State or destruction of the materials, so parties or an "agreement to be bound" signatory may alleviate concerns by confirming that he or she no longer has the materials. Similarly, counsel's complaints about the procedure to seal documents are in error. The procedure is in compliance with Arizona rules, which Cochise County follows.

## D. The Protective Order Does Not Violate Due Process or the Confrontation Clause.

Although Defendant suggests his own version of a protective order, he also argues that a protective order violates his right to due process and runs afoul of the Confrontation Clause. These arguments ignore the fundamental nature of a protective order, which governs effective administration of pre-trial discovery. Moreover, as noted

above, Defendant's substantive right to present a defense is improved by the Protective Order, as it allows the State to provide prompt access to information while reserving the parties' ability to address and resolve redactions, edits, and potential objections as to the relevance and admissibility of the information at trial at a later date.

# E. The State's Proposed Protective Order is the Least Restrictive Means of Advancing Disclosure Between the Parties.

It appears from the proposed order submitted by counsel for Defendant that Defendant would have the parties apply to the court as to each specific document for which confidential designations or redactions may be appropriate. Defendant's approach is unworkable, and has already been rejected by at least one other Court. Counsel and the Court do not have time to apply to the Court and potentially hold hearings for each and every document that may be discoverable in this matter. As Defendant's suggested approach and proposed Protective Order would be extremely cumbersome in practice, it is not the least restrictive means of completing disclosure.

The State's proposed Protective Order is the least restrictive means of addressing the competing interests. It does not require piecemeal analysis. Rather, it requires counsel for the parties, as information is obtained, to review and identify whether the information is confidential—either due to statutory requirements, victim's rights, or valid safety and integrity concerns that have arisen during the course of proceedings—and identify the materials as such before disclosing them to the opposing party. Counsel, and all those who agree to maintain the information in confidence and limit use to preparing the defense, may then have access to the materials as the parties proceed through the matter to trial. As trial nears, the parties would evaluate whether certain redactions or other measures are needed for designated documents deemed necessary for trial to address confidentiality issues before seeking to publicize materials at trial. This approach is fair to all parties, does not burden the Court with endless "in camera" requests, and

promotes prompt and complete analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of each parties' position in advance of trial. The State's proposed Protective Order should be entered.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 15th day of August, 2018.

**COCHISE COUNTY ATTORNEY** 

By:

SARA V. RANSOM

**DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY** 

Original filed with the Cochise County Clerk of the Court this 15th day of August, 2018.

Copies of the foregoing mailed/delivered this 15th day of August, 2018, to:

Honorable Wallace R. Hoggatt Judge of the Superior Court, Division 3

Via Courthouse Distribution Box (courtesy copy via e-mail)

Xochitl Orozco, Esq.
Deputy Public Defender

Via Courthouse Distribution Box (courtesy copy via e-mail)

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rom: Sent: To: Subject:	Orozco, Xochitl Friday, July 6, 2018 11:10 AM Ransom, Sara RE: Luis Siqueiros CR201800385		19:10:32 B3

That makes sense, thank you. I had Erica follow up yesterday on the Chasse order... no news. I thought we would have heard by now. Xochitl

From: Ransom, Sara

Sent: Friday, July 06, 2018 11:09 AM

To: Orozco, Xochitl <SOrozco@cochise.az.gov> Subject: RE: Luis Siqueiros CR201800385

I have been waiting to see what changes Judge Conlogue makes to the Chasse PO so I can use that form. I will file a motion today to get things in motion and lodge a proposed form of order once we get Judge Conlogue's form of PO

Sara

From: Orozco, Xochitl

Sent: Friday, July 6, 2018 11:06 AM

To: Ransom, Sara < SRansom@cochise.az.gov>

Subject: Luis Siqueiros CR201800385

### Good day Sara,

I am following up on the email I sent June 27. Have you filed a motion for protective order in Siqueiros? The cds are something I need to look into soon.

Thank you for your time,

Xochitl

From: Orozco, Xochitl

Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 10:41 AM To: Ransom, Sara < SRansom@cochise.az.gov> Subject: RE: Luis Siqueiros CR201800385

#### Good day Sara,

I wanted to follow up on the Siqueiros-Medina case. The disclosure states that the cds are being withheld pending ruling on the motion for protective order. I have not received a motion for protective order yet. You may have been holding on to the motion while I was gone. Let me know.

Thank you for your time,

Xochitl

From: Ransom, Sara

Sent: Monday, June 11, 2018 9:32 AM

To: Orozco, Xochitl <SOrozco@cochise.az.gov> Subject: RE: Luis Siqueiros CR201800385

### No problem, thanks

From: Orozco, Xochitl

Sent: Monday, June 11, 2018 8:40 AM

**To:** Ransom, Sara < <u>SRansom@cochise.az.gov</u>> **Subject:** RE: Luis Siqueiros CR201800385

### Good morning Sara,

Sorry to hear about your hectic month, I understand completely. I am going on vacation for a week and then in the public defender conference next week. I will not be back until the 25<sup>th</sup>. If you want to file something in Siqueiros and have a hearing that is fine with me, just please don't set it before July 2 so that I have time to respond. Thank you for your time.

**Xochitl** 

From: Ransom, Sara

Sent: Friday, June 08, 2018 5:52 PM

To: Orozco, Xochitl <<u>SOrozco@cochise.az.gov</u>>
Subject: RE: Luis Siqueiros CR201800385

#### XochitI,

I apologize—I had intended to bring up a PO with you, and I should have at least made sure the non-confidential documents went out in a supplemental disclosure. Its been a very hectic month. I will have additional documents out to you Monday. I imagine we will be fighting over the PO.

#### Sara

From: Orozco, Xochitl

Sent: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 9:13 AM

To: Ransom, Sara < SRansom@cochise.az.gov>

Subject: Luis Siqueiros CR201800385

#### Good morning Sara,

I wanted to follow up on the disclosure on Luis Siqueiros. He had his arraignment on April 30, 2018. I still have not received any media on this case including his interview with police, the forensic interviews with the alleged victims and the interview with one of the alleged victim's mother, F.C.

Could you please follow up on this?

Thank you for your time,

**Xochitl** 

#### **Xochitl Orozco**

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